

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 27, 1981

POLAND: Tough Government Stance

The Jaruzelski regime yesterday underscored its intention to take a tough stance toward certain Solidarity activities. [REDACTED]

The prosecutor general's office in Warsaw announced that it is bringing legal charges against a handful of Solidarity activists for anti-Soviet and antistate agitation. The move is consistent with regime actions taken last week and should leave little doubt within the union that the government is not willing to tolerate such activity. This will complicate the already strained government-union relations. [REDACTED]

The regime is also mounting a strong propaganda campaign against Solidarity's decision to stage a one-hour strike tomorrow. The government clearly hopes to erode support for the strike. The regime also wants to depict Solidarity as irresponsible for having gone ahead with its action in the face of Poland's severe economic problems. The government hopes to contrast Solidarity's move with its own dramatic efforts to help the economy by sending military groups throughout the country. The regime's propaganda campaign will go unheeded by many, who still look on the government and its actions with great distrust. [REDACTED]

The government, meanwhile, has continued deployment of the special military groups. It apparently plans initially to deploy some 800 groups to cover 2,000 towns and is making great effort to depict their duties as primarily economic. A local Polish official told [REDACTED] that the groups would be "responsive" to provincial governors. [REDACTED]

Solidarity officials confirmed [REDACTED] yesterday that the union will take a wait-and-see attitude toward the government's deployment of these special military groups. One of the union leaders believes that Solidarity will be able to cooperate with the military groups in identifying bottlenecks and by monitoring movement of food and fuel supplies. Another leader believes the government action will only increase the discontent within the Army resulting from the recent two-month extension of service for conscripts. [REDACTED]

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334

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